(d) the names of the major railway stations where such facility has been provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) A separate waiting room for disabled persons is available on Ajmeri Gate side entry at New Delhi Railway Station.

Shifting of South West Railway Headquarters

1388. SHRI S.R. BOMMAI:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to shift the South West Railway Zonal Headquarters, from Bangalore to Hubli;

(b) if so, whether the process of shifting has begun; and

(c) what is the present position of shifting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is a court case pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding the issue, the final outcome of which is awaited. However, the entire issue of reorganisation is presently under review.

Gauge Conversion Projects in North East

1389. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project for conversion of Lumding-Silchar section of N.F. Railway from metre-gauge into broadgauge, was included in the Railway Ministry's development plans sometime back;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds sanctioned therefor;

(c) when the work for its execution was taken up and the progress achieved in this regard, so far;

(d) by when the entire project is likely to be completed;

(e) whether the Silchar-Jiriban (Manipur) broad gauge conversion would be completed alongwith it; and

(f) by when the work of Silchar-Jiriban gauge conversion project is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Final location survey for diversions in the Ghat section to suit the requirement of BG and preparation of land acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. The paper alignment for entire length and staking of the alignment has been completed in 150 km. Earthwork and bridges are now in progress between Lumding and silchar in 90 km length (40 km from Lumding end and 50 km from Silchar end). 40% of the earthwork and 50 minor bridges in this 90 km length have been completed.

Work of Silchar -Jiriban gauge conversion is being carried out as a material modification of this work.

Expenditure incurred upto Marach 2000 is Rs. 79.75 cr. and an outlay of Rs. 40 cr. has been provided in Budget 2000-2001.

(d) No target date has yet been fixed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) No target date has yet been fixed.

Increasing Rail Accidents

1390. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways is aware of the news-item which appeared under the caption, "Railways chug along with load of catchwords", in Times of India; Calcutta dated 27th September, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the first four months of the year, incidence of rail accidents have gone up from 160 in the previous year to 2000 this year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and